

Current Economic Programs Printed Survey Results: by the *Annual Retail Trade Statistics Users* Respondent Base

U.S. Census Bureau
Current Economic Statistics User Survey

OMB CQM-26 (Rev.5/5/98)

I. DATA CONTENT

Your answers identifying the survey data you use will help us understand our users' patterns of data use.

1. Which Current Economic Statistics from the Census Bureau do you use? (Mark all that apply.)

(1) Monthly

0.3%;	1	None
85.6%;	256	Retail Sales
48.2%;	144	Wholesale Trade
48.5%;	145	Manufacturing/Trade Inventory/Sales
56.2%;	168	Housing Starts
53.2%;	159	Building Permits
45.2%;	135	New Home Sales
39.8%;	119	Value of New Construction Put in Place
28.8%;	86	Housing Completions
26.1%;	78	Expenditures for Residential Improvements
34.1%;	102	New Residential Construction
15.7%;	47	New Mobile Home Placements
39.1%;	117	Monthly Imports and Exports
44.8%;	134	Current Industrial Reports
41.5%;	124	Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, Orders

Replies 299; Forms 317

(2) Quarterly

52.5%;	74	Quarterly Financial Report
77.3%;	109	Current Industrial Reports
4.3%;	6	Federal Assistance Awards Data System
17.7%;	25	Quarterly Tax Survey
7.8%;	11	Quarterly Public Employee Retirement

Replies 141; Forms 317

(3) Annual

100.0%;	317	Annual Retail Trade
63.7%;	202	Annual (Wholesale) Trade
26.2%;	83	Annual Survey of Communications
31.9%;	101	Transportation Annual Survey
33.8%;	107	Service Annual Survey
60.9%;	193	County Business Patterns

34.1%;	108	ZIP Code Business Patterns
37.9%;	120	Statistics of U.S. Businesses
28.7%;	91	Characteristics of New Housing
42.3%;	134	Annual Building Permits
26.5%;	84	New Residential Construction in Selected Metropolitan Areas
27.4%;	87	Annual Capital Expenditures
62.8%;	199	Annual Survey of Manufactures
46.4%;	147	Current Industrial Reports
17.7%;	56	Research and Development Survey
24.9%;	79	Plant Capacity Utilization
8.5%;	27	Education Finance Survey
14.5%;	46	State Tax Collection Survey
5.4%;	17	Annual Public Employee Retirement
12.3%;	39	Annual Survey of Public Employment
11.7%;	37	Consolidated Federal Funds Report
20.5%;	65	State Government Finances
40.7%;	129	Annual Imports and Exports

Replies 317; Forms 317

II. DATA DELIVERY

The Census Bureau is considering use of the Internet as the primary method of data delivery. By completing the following questions, you will help us retain the most essential delivery formats and design the best possible data delivery service.

(4) 2. How do you receive current economic data now? (Mark all that apply.)

90.1%;	282	Printed Publications	13.7%;	43	FAX
74.4%;	233	World Wide Web (Internet)	12.1%;	38	Direct (E-mail) delivery
39.9%;	125	CD-ROMs	2.2%;	7	Regular mail
22.0%;	69	Diskettes	4.5%;	14	Other

Replies 313; Forms 317

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- Magnetic Tape
 - visit to Census release library and requests to commerce library.
 - Would prefer receiving printed schedules to let me know what data is available via internet.
 - Electronic "Bulletin Boards"
 - Check values by telephone
 - also use microfiche in some cases.
 - time-share vendor (private)
 - Bulletin Board Commerce Dept.
 - Economic Bulletin Board-Commerce Dept.
 - Newswires
 - Stat-USA
 - EBB//Electronic Bulletin Board
 - Overnight Delivery of NIA data
 - CD Rom & Publications in Library
 - STAT-USA+WEFA Group

(5) 3. What format do you PREFER when downloading data for further manipulation? (Mark all that apply.)

70.3%;	204	Spreadsheet (e.g., wkl, xls, etc...)
29.0%;	84	Database (e.g., dbf, mdb, etc...)
26.2%;	76	ASCII delimited

16.6%;	48	Do not manipulate data
16.6%;	48	ASCII flat files
14.8%;	43	Retrieve from print or screen and enter manually
2.8%;	8	Other

Replies 290; Forms 317

- Sas data sets
- download from www.Census.gov
- Change to landscape small font 9
- to be determined
- Text files: txt. or PRN
- Also as text or word file
- PDF formats were the best
- Word Document

4. What capabilities do you want on the Census Internet site? (For each line, indicate the degree of your preferences, from 5 [high] to 1 [low].)

(6) a. Direct (E-mail) delivery:

41.7%;	115	5	17.4%;	48	3	8.3%;	23	1
18.1%;	50	4	6.5%;	18	2	8.0%;	22	Don't know

Replies 276; Forms 317

(7) b. E-mail notification:

40.6%;	110	5	19.6%;	53	3	8.1%;	22	1
14.8%;	40	4	8.9%;	24	2	8.1%;	22	Don't know

Replies 271; Forms 317

(8) c. Retrieve/display to screen:

53.9%;	145	5	12.6%;	34	3	4.5%;	12	1
18.6%;	50	4	3.0%;	8	2	7.4%;	20	Don't know

Replies 269; Forms 317

(9) d. Search:

70.5%;	198	5	8.9%;	25	3	1.4%;	4	1
15.3%;	43	4	1.4%;	4	2	2.5%;	7	Don't know

Replies 281; Forms 317

(10) e. Download complete data sets:

68.8%;	192	5	8.2%;	23	3	1.8%;	5	1
12.5%;	35	4	5.0%;	14	2	3.6%;	10	Don't know

Replies 279; Forms 317

(11) f. Download selected data:

73.9%;	212	5	5.9%;	17	3	1.4%;	4	1
13.6%;	39	4	3.1%;	9	2	2.1%;	6	Don't know

Replies 287; Forms 317

(12) g. Software help/tutorials:

22.8%;	59	5	29.0%;	75	3	9.7%;	25	1
17.8%;	46	4	13.9%;	36	2	6.9%;	18	Don't know

Replies 259; Forms 317

(13) h. Publication-quality printing:

32.6%;	88	5	19.6%;	53	3	12.6%;	34	1
20.4%;	55	4	11.9%;	32	2	3.0%;	8	Don't know

Replies 270; Forms 317

(14) i. Charts and graphs:

28.0%;	76	5	18.8%;	51	3	13.3%;	36	1
21.4%;	58	4	15.1%;	41	2	3.3%;	9	Don't know

Replies 271; Forms 317

(15) j. Geographic maps:

31.7%;	83	5	16.0%;	42	3	13.4%;	35	1
19.5%;	51	4	13.4%;	35	2	6.1%;	16	Don't know

Replies 262; Forms 317

(16) k. Other, please specify:

75.0%;	15	electronic bulletin board	25.0%;	5	Other
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Replies 20; Forms 317

- Structure and specialists available to help researchers find data.
 - Internet site very important to receive data from.
 - Don't know if electronic bulletin is used to collect
 - electronic
 - Update full report at release time
-

(17) l. Electronic Bulletin Board (To collect write-ins)

0.0%;	0	5	0.0%;	0	3	0.0%;	0	1
0.0%;	0	4	100.0%;	1	2	0.0%;	0	Don't know

Replies 1; Forms 317

III. DATA USAGE

Your answers describing how you use the data will help us design the most effective Current Economic Statistics retrieval tool.

(18) 5. Do you combine/compare/merge data from more than one source listed in Question 1?

30.2%;	89	No	69.8%;	206	Yes
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Replies 295; Forms 317

(19) 6. What time periods do you consider when using these data? (Mark X all that apply.)

66.0%;	200	trends up to 5 years	43.6%;	132	trends up to 1 year
63.0%;	191	5+ years	0.0%;	0	Other
47.5%;	144	latest 1 or 2 periods			

Replies 303; Forms 317

(20) 7. How do you use the data? (Mark all that apply.)

53.7%;	161	Create value-added products/services
45.7%;	137	Perform patron/client inquiries
23.3%;	70	Republish in newspaper/journal
23.0%;	69	Inform marketing decisions
18.7%;	56	Store reports/printouts for archival purposes
16.0%;	48	Inform investment decisions
9.3%;	28	Locate new sites
0.3%;	1	Other

Replies 300; Forms 317

- Store data in database.
-

(21) 8. What explanatory information do you consult when using these data? (Mark all that apply.)

79.9%;	235	Definition of terms
57.8%;	170	Narrative text describing survey results
54.8%;	161	Sampling and estimation methodology
38.8%;	114	Survey design
9.2%;	27	None
3.1%;	9	Other

Replies 294; Forms 317

- frequency and availability
 - Data Dictionary
 - short trend summary is extremely helpful-where possible.
 - Direct contact with Census analysts
 - Comparisons to earlier surveys and/or similar data from other agencies--e.g. census to BEA in one estimates.
 - Census Bureau Staff
 - Regression analysis
 - Background papers, Journal Articles
 - Phone calls to Census and or DOL
-

(22) 9. Do you have any pressing data or information needs that are not currently being met?

-
- Regional retail sales estimates (cancelled after 1996)
 - Value of the U.S. apparel protection reported in the CIR - Need URGENTLY!!
 - Yes--Need more timely and more defined (i.e. 4-digit SIC code) SUB-NATIONAL data.
 - Monthly RetailSales is no longer in print-- it is time consuming to get it off the internet because of the download time. It's a waste of valuable research time.
 - Retail Trade Monthly - Regional Data Survey - Blue Pages, Building Permits - Non-Resident & Additions.
 - Print publications no longer available, yet there is no notice that the print publication will no longer exist. Impossible to find the exact publication on the Internet so clients can compare and update printed data. Current information available but how long will older information remain available?
 - Retail sales for Central Business Districts; zip code retail sales, manufacturers, wholesale, etc; zip code housing data including rent and home prices; SIC business from zip codes.
 - No.
 - No.
 - If I request "personal income 1989-1992 monthly", the database would show me what I requested data.
 - Capital Outlays Quarterly By Industry
 - Monthly commercial building permit statistics for Putnam Co. New York.
 - Information on nonresidential construction.
 - Printing in ASCII, converted to 6.1. That gives complete graph - 15 columns.
 - Foreign trade - exports & imports - by 4-digit (data that had been available in "Trades Employment") - without SIC (& soon NAIC), cannot compare trade with domestic activity.
 - Data is often no longer available at county or regional level, which is a big loss to local government. If possible, please reinstate (eg. retail sales). Also, non-residential building permits no longer available.
 - No.
 - No.
 - Monthly retail sales were previously available by U.S. region! We need this!
 - No.
 - Info at small geographic levels, villages, small cities, townships
 - Selected salaries for selected industries & occupations.
 - New remodeling data from American Housing Survey.
 - Nonresidential Construction Dollars by STATE Highway Expenditures by STATE data has to be timely.
 - MCD Business Patterns, Massachusetts is doing away with county government, MCD income estimates.
 - Non-residential building permits--number by type of building.
 - The availability of Residential and Commercial Building Permit Data.
 - We use and would like to continue to use retail sales by county data and the merchandise line sales data.
 - We need all stats available for the Jewelry Industry especially by geographic region.
 - I'd love to see employment data by SIC based on place of residence. Also wish for reconciliation between RIMS, SIC, & NAICS.
 - Int'l trade data on internet are inadequate. Only press releases are there. When data are revised, if data are not in the press release, there is no way to get the revisions (ex: monthly data from exhibits 6&7 of FT900).
 - Monthly historical trade data.
 - Number of Mobile Homes & Value of, by state, on a monthly basis. (Currently only published annually) -- Also, by county, if possible.
 - 1) Monthly building permits by state. 2) Retail sales by states & MSA's.
 - Miss the state retail sales numbers.
 - Better capital expenditure data and Better motor vehicle data.
 - Non-residential building permits data and value of new non-residential construction part in place.
 - More detailed retail information.
 - Monthly trade data based on export location.
 - Keeping ____ disaggregated data sets ____ possible that are consistent, and therefore directly comparable is very helpful.

- 1) NAICS to harmonized code concordance. 2) Timely plant capacity utilization at greatest detail level possible. 3) Windows version import data/monthly annual easy to use historical with full detail. 4) New Home sales (without land).
- Small area employment (place of work) estimates - current #'s.
- Resume geographic estimates of retail sales.
- MSA level business patterns. Estimates (updated info) on a wider range of demographic variable for counties and sub-counties.
- Current employment by #'s of employees, by SIC, by MCD, by specific employer ID only.
- Annual sales figures for all sales by SIC S962 on all sales through vending (coin operated) machines.
- Commercial Building Permits for MSA's. This program was discontinued by the Census a couple of years ago.
- Monthly Retail Sales - Nassau-Suffolk, NY MSA (Data Discontinued?)
- YES! Bring back non-residential state/local permits authorized! This was a severe loss for interpreting local economic trends. Also, more geographic detail, more frequently.
- Commodity flows data with 3 digit SIC value of shipments between states-The state to state flows.
- Commercial Construction Permit Activity
- Some data are not historical enough. Most of the time, I need data as far back as 20-30 years ago.
- Seasonal Population - estimates. More information on affordable housing-market.
- greater back files of data
- Monthly Retail Sales for U.S. Metropolitan Areas.
- current retail sales
- Yes. I have been looking for cost data for pollution data for different pollutants by categories for the last years from 1993 +, but could not.
- More frequent substate mtg. stats (annual survey is state wide only)
- Our newsletter goes to many retail CEOs.
- Household Expenditure Data at State Level.
- I need quarter-by-quarter growth figures in areas such as sales, inventories, GOP, construction, etc.
- Regional retail sales (metropolitan area) monthly non-residential building permits by metropolitan area monthly.
- Break-out of services components of GDP.
- Pollution abatement expenditures by SIC
- We want SIC data at the product level by region. Please make every effort to provide locational tags to Canadian & Mexican data. Full country data profiles are not sufficient.
- Business starts by SIC at the County level.
- Two pieces of information that the Census Department had done in the past--metropolitan estimates of retail trade and metro commercial construction permit activity--both annual.
- Would like Government Finance series in print form.
- Up to date residential improvements data garage door 1 garage door openers involved in improvements.
- Non-residential Building permits.
- Quarterly Financial data that separates publishing from printing (SIC 27)
- Place and regional economic data sets in relation to population/race trends.
- Better linkage between manufacturing industries and downstream reproducing and distribution. Information pertaining to weights or units with respect to distribution. At processing we measure weights and units. At distribution and are measured. It's discontinuous and you can't measure what the system is doing.
- Our category is part of non-published retail sales. We really need less variable information. Also, we used DMA-level retail sales when it was available.
- Utilization of data for merging with Atlas GIS. Convert landview to include information down to Block level.
- We always require information broken out by minority group status, even if they are forecast.
- Make data reports easier to print off of the web.
- Average expenditures per residential improvement project for single family homes by region. Average value for residential permits by region.
- Service Data on an manual/quarterly/monthly basis by 2,3, & 4-digit SIC!
- Advanced Retail numbers should have "jewelry stores".

- Website is extremely difficult to navigate.
- The annual survey of manufacturers needs to be in ASCII or pdf format; as well as pdf. We spend too many hours re-entering the data.
- Need more timely delivery of C-50 dat (Res. Improvements). There is no contemporary measure of remodeling activity.
- Need detailed PPI data.
- Elimination of Group II sales data and problems
- Median income and poverty tables are not in spreadsheet form (they one were).
- Imports and exports by 4-digit SIC. Very important--in print. Publication form--quarterly.
- We would like to see more economic data and analyses at the state & MSA level.
- Department store sales
- Census of retail trade 1997 merchandis sales report - need ASAP
- In general, estimates and figures at higher geographic levels, such as block groups or zip + 4's.
- Geographic Area Retail Sales
- Quarterly data, analyzed growth rates for all statistics. Currently, only some fo the data is shown as a quarterly growth rat analyzed.
- MSA retail sales
- Monthly service sector sales counterpart data st to retail, wholesale, and manufacturing shipments.
- Permits for remodeling and non-residential construction.
- Population Projections
- The more detailed (down to specific product line) the better.
- The more history, the better.
- Commercial, Industrial, and other non-residential construction put-in-place!
- Non-residential construction data outside California! Bring it back!
- Data at the metropolitan area level, e.g. retail sales, commercial building permits (office, industrial, retail).
- We have a need for long historical time series and for long-term forecasts.
- Information about how well the ACES programs capture new business formation and business deaths.
- Monthly and annual retail sales for MSA's like you used to collect and publish.
- Building permits for non-residents.
- Commercial Building Permits County level on a timely basis.
- Census bureau data by county: retail sales, housing starts, manufacturing stats, imports/exports, new home sales.
- Report on productionn of industrial fabrics
- Just wish more data were available at county or metro level in a timely fashion
- Very disappointed that non-residential building permit data is no longer being tracked--our models rely on this!

IV. INDUSTRY CLASSIFICATION ISSUES

We will soon begin restructuring the Current Economic Surveys based on the new North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Your answers will help us ensure that these surveys continue to provide the economic information needed by markets, policy makers, and business people. For more information on NAICS, see the Bureau's web site: <http://www.census.gov/NAICS>.

- (24) 10. At what levels of detail do you MOST FREQUENTLY USE industry data classified by Standard Industrial Classification (SIC)? (Mark all that apply.)

71.7%;	215	4-digit industries (or maximum detail I can get)
41.3%;	124	Sector totals (SIC division); e.g., Manufacturing or Retail Trade
41.0%;	123	2-digit major groups
38.7%;	116	3-digit industry groups
4.7%;	14	NA (don't use SIC-based data)
4.0%;	12	Other

Replies 300; Forms 317

- digit SIC product codes
- HS
- NAICS, Duns' Product Codes
- 7-digit in some cases
- Greater detail when available
- The greatest level available--CIR level. Product level.
- Name of Industry & # of employees
- I don't use this much, but others in the agency do!
- Would like to have 6 or 7 digit SIC
- Don't know
- Only sell the NAICS
- Use SIC categories extensively

(25) 11. Were you aware that the SIC system is being replaced by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)?

23.1%; 71 I was unaware of this
28.0%; 86 I am partially aware, but lack details
48.9%; 150 I am aware and understand some implications

Replies 307; Forms 317

12. Would you like to receive more information about NAICS?

(26) Yes, please send me - (Mark all that apply)

88.4%;	198	A brochure that explains NAICS	27.7%;	62	Conference announcements
62.1%;	139	NAICS implementation plans	5.4%;	12	Other

Replies 224; Forms 317

- A copy
- Send info on NAICS comparability with existing SIC data.
- H.S. Concordances
- The reference book of classifications
- We already have NAICS class. volume.
- Info on how to reconcile two systems.
- I am awaiting CD-ROM!
- We bought the big NAICS book earlier this year--has it been updated?
- Already know
- Already have all the information I need.

(27) No Thanks -

67.8%; 59 I will check the Census Bureau's web site (www.census.gov/naics)
32.2%; 28 I don't need more information about NAICS

Replies 87; Forms 317

V. USER PROFILE

Please tell us about yourself so we may serve you better.

(28) 13. Type of organization.

41.1%;	127	Business	4.5%;	14	Media
23.6%;	73	Government	3.9%;	12	Individual
14.9%;	46	Academic/Research	1.0%;	3	Library
6.8%;	21	Association	4.2%;	13	Other

Replies 309; Forms 317

- Consulting
 - Chamber of Commerce
 - Economics Consulting
 - non-profit economic development org.
 - Economic Development District State Data Center depository.
 - Economic Development
 - Labor Union
 - Consultant
 - Library (University)
 - University
 - Corp. Library
 - non-profit trade promotion
 - Regional Planning Commission
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(29) 14. Do you work in your organization's library?

34.8%;	106	Yes	65.2%;	199	No
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Replies 305; Forms 317

(30) 15. What is your affiliation with the Census Bureau?

70.5%;	217	None	0.6%;	2	Affiliate Data Center
10.1%;	31	State Data Center	0.3%;	1	National Clearinghouse
4.9%;	15	Business/Industry Data Center	11.4%;	35	Other
2.3%;	7	Census Information Center			

Replies 308; Forms 317

- Affiliate of the State Data Center
- Philadelphia Regional Office
- Do not understand?
- State Government Agency.
- Need statistical info on Jewelry Industry.
- Richmond Public Library, BST Dept. 101 E. Franklin St., Richmond, VA 23219
- Associate Stat Data Center
- Federal User
- State Data Center Affiliation
- City Government
- Data Center Affiliate
- Cooperator in disseminating permits authorized data
- Census Liason
- Technical Assistance Center
- Research
- Provide Census Bureau w/our publication
- Provider of Business Data to the Census Bureau
- Customer
- Depository

- BIDC affiliate
- Regional planning agency.
- Economic Development Distinct State Data Center depository
- State Data Center Affiliate
- DOC Staff
- Economist
- Data use.
- Heavy user
- Sell Census documents
- GPO Depository
- Local Census Affiliate
- Trade Association
- BEA, U.S. Department of Commerce
- Government agency
- Associate Data Center
- Federal Depository Library

(35) 20. May we contact you to follow up on this questionnaire?

81.7%; 245 Yes

18.3%; 55 No

Replies 300; Forms 317

(36) Question 21. Remarks:

- Do not sell/rent my phone # to telemarketers.
- The computerized data is fine when know exactly which dat you want. It is not so good when you want to know what is available and related information; in this case the printed publication e.g. censu of Manufactures, is far superior.
- The library relies heavily on Census data bu twe have a need for the information in both printed and downloadable (manipulable) formats. The library would purchase both the printed format as well as subscribe to the census website.
- The dat indicated in Question 1 are data I directly receive from Census on an ongoing basis. I use other Census data periodically depending on what project I am working on. the data content, deliver, and usage vary substantially from project-to-project.
- We would like to be placed on your mailing list to regularly received the publications as check-marked on the attached listing form.

Sincerely, William A. Rossi

- I've been trying to get Census data since 1991. I've use NTDB CD-ROM, StatUSA CD and now the Internet site. As soon as I learn the system really well-you change it. After I loaded the StatUSA CD--The NTDB CD would not work. We need older figures going back to the 1980's. It's impossible to run NTDP, then StatUSA on the smae PC. I really hate the StatUSA CD.
- 1). It is important to be able to retrieve data in easy to use formats (spreadsheet or ascii)- "pdf" formats are convenient to print, but difficult to use. 2). Please see question 9. 3). We are concerned about the discontinuity in time series data that will occur with NAICS. The 1987 SIC change was a significant problem-NAICS will likely be much worse. Any help from Census (bridges, publication of data in both classifications) would be a great help to data users.
- I suport the move toward Internet data delivery because it should make data available faster and at a lower cost. the challenge is to make it easy for the widest variety of data users as possible to retrieve the data the need.

Example: I use County Business Patterns to track number of establishment for certain industries by state. I believe dat users on the Internet currently can select only one year at a time and one state at a time. the ability to put together summary tables based on selections would help a lot.

- I have proposed buying the SIC statute for years with no luck. NAFTA had it come before we could get this done.

- We now have separate classification just for apparel. It only took 30 years.
- The Bureau of the Census has done a great job with its web sites. With the exception of some unpublished data, everything is available through the internet. The unpublished data is received by direct e-mail.
- In our work with furniture manufacturers and retailers we consistently need breakdowns of mergers, shipments by product classification (ie. bedroom) on a more timely basis & retail sales at a smaller geographic level.
- I use the data to find customers for vacant commercial-industrial properties I have listed, or to find properties for prospective customers-investors.
- A published paper version should always be made available for purchase to the public. Information being available on the internet is nice, yet it is a completely different animal than having a hard copy version of the information. An example: I can receive my news off the internet, but I still prefer to get my newspaper in the morning for reading at my leisure away from a computer.
- Joe Cantalupo is no longer in service to the County of Rockland.
- When is 1997 Census to be available? Please keep as much of the data in print as possible-- Thanks!
- Census bureau data is always helpful--the data you provide enhances our publication and enables readers to make informal business decisions.
- --But please ask for Deborah Foster.

Thank you.

- Documents need to more clearly state whom to contact for follow-up information.
- Thanks for asking!
- Need an index of available information.
- You have set up an excellent web site that is easy to use, fast and usually supplies me with the information I'm seeking.
- The efforts to provide electronic format data are a vast improvement over paper/hard copy publications. They have increased the accuracy and utility of the data sets.
- The level of detail varies depending on the type of data requested. Mostly county-level data is used because this is what is available.

Although the technology of the internet is available to tie up my phone line browsing for information to print out is very time consuming, whereas a printed report is much easier to access & reference. Not all government entities have the capacity to keep pace with new, faster, computer hardware & software.

- Census data has proven invaluable to in-depth country comparisons of productivity in sectors extremely valuable organization.

Please keep going with the detailed data, comparable time series (IS NAICS comparable?) and aggregate numbers.

- I am probably not typical of you average user. Have 35 years with USDA-limited computer experience-Basically use printed Census data re: population-social conditions-employment income, etc. & cost indexes as I am an economist.

Thanks.

- We used to receive from state employment agency using worker comp data lists by geography MCD; by SIC; by name of employer--the number of employees. We were well aware this was sensitive data for competitive reasons of employer confidentiality. Unfortunately, someone at another agency apparently released some of this data to the "public" and now it is unavailable-- what is left is very inadequate, unsorted data--difficult to interpret. We can not do adequate community profiles by consolidated data any more. How can similar data be obtained?
- We use business/commercial statistics when writing market reports. We are not regular users of any of the Census publications, but value them highly in our individual case work.
- Being able to download from the web site has generally worked very well for us. The only troublesome aspect is that the page numbers of the PDF documents differ from the page numbers in their table of contents (e.g. - printing page 18 gets you page 12 of the document).

- A big "thank you" to the Census specialists who have been most helpful and polite when we've called with questions.
- We serve a varied clientele (academic, business, government, and private citizens) and work across many subject. Census data are absolutely vital to us. Our biggest need is for more geographic area detail more frequently (state, county, place, if possible). Users often do not understand the 5 yr. gaps and lag time for the major Economic Surveys that offer such detail, much less the 10 yr. decennial cycle. The internet is a great help in speeding "publication", but we find access is not yet universal. We still download and print entire documents for guide reference and historical purposes. I am concerned about just how long the electronic medi will remain accurate and usable as technology changes. How will the Bureau deal with these problems?
- Stat-USA is an extremely useful tool for retrieving data. I would like to see more files in spreadsheet format and the ability to download particular segments.
- Please contact ASAP: Bob Davidson, Gov't Information Service Section Palm Beach county Library System Service

3650 SUMMIT BLVD. 33406
 (561) 233-2600, ext. 164
 email Robert ID@PB.SEFLIN.ORG

- My compliments on you Web Site--easy to use; available data is amazing!
- I believe this survey contains a lot of information to be used.
- I also use the Monthly Labor Review Survey of Business Statistical Abstract
- Retail sic classification need major redo.
- Data validity in the NAICS project is one of our concerns. Has any provision been for cross checks of the data?
- I am disappointed that the Census Bureau has cut back on selected metropolitan data services, namely retail sales estimates and commercial building permit activity. While I understood Budget pressures, it seems that lower cost alternative could have been implimented rather that elimination (perhaps annual figures rather that monthly). It is important that the Federal govt. provides timely information that can capture the dynamics of regional growth as well as natural growth on proud level of data services.
- I received the survey on August 7th-so was not able to return it in the time requested!

Our office is very interested in any information on the implementation of NAICS-as our researchers will be using it a great deal.

- State and Local Government Finance Estimates, by State. We appreciate having this information on the Internet but wish the report was still published. Is there any way of compiling the data sooner? It is almost too old to be of any use.
- Desperately need this information from NAICs. Emerging technology/company information requested everyday.
- We look forward to working with you on the upcoming Census.
- Tables which have no column headings and which one must consult separate documents are highly confusing.
- I use dat available by MSA, county and sub-county data not available at these levels is generally not applicable to the work we do. In a (very) few cases (like state and local gov't finances) we use state level data.
- Tutorials and/or manuals should be sent out with Census products. I have fiddled enough with Landview III to utilize some of its versatility. Other colleagues won't due to lack of time to waste on self-teaching (fumbling).

Landview III should allow searches down to the Block level & just empty the fields which raise concerns regarding privacy at that level.

- I always use your data for the economic releases. My major concerns are: timeliness of data availability on web and being able to print the data from the web without having to reformat printing fonts. I also to the revisions when they come out, but often the location and structure of the revisions is confusing.
- I appreciate receiving this survey.
- We're still waiting for an order blank so we can order the 1997 Economic Census.

- Would be helpful if classes were offered in best techniques when seeking govt. data on the Web.

Location on Web tha would state what media given U.S. Govt. was available in (papers, Internet, etc.)

- I think the advancements on the Web over the past few years have been excellent. The Bureau of Labor Statistics has put much of this data in raw form on their FTP site. I'd like to see the Census Bureau make the FTP site more accessible and have more information.
- Please update my address in your records. Thanks!
- I think many users are still going to want the hard copy publications. I know many are available in PDF formats but these are not conducive to shelving.
- We love the Census Bureau! Clear publications indices and ease of search engines on the Internet site are very important to us. Also, choice of how to download data is good, not all users need or can use spreadsheet software.
- Will all Census data be available only via the Internet? My customers prefer printed format. Thank you.
- Keep up the good work. I appreciate this survey.
- More documentation and instructions for obtaining data from gohper directories would be helpful.
- I appreciate the value of your service! Educators use information for social profit.
- prefer e-mail
- Keep up the good work.
- I use your "Telephone contacts for Data Users" and phone for help and information--of ten. I am very pleased with the response and helpfulness of all the people at Census, from receptionists to anyalysts. It would be nice to get it regularly. I forget, from year to year, to send for updates, until I notice that some contact names are out of date.
- I like the fact that the Census Bureau Produces many of is documents in the .pdf format, these are easy to print, bind and archive in our library. However, what is even more important to our firm is the ability to manipulate the data, and easily bring it into a data base or spreadsheet. If I had to choose I would prefer the raw data to the printable format.

I might use more of the data listed in question now that I know it exists.

- Good to see this survey! Dealing with you via the Internet and mail is going well. However, trying to reach people ove rthe phone is still a major headache.
- Glad more of your publications are being made available on the Interenet! Suggestion for format of employment data-group by years first, then industry. Is there some alternative for obtaining non-residential building permits.

Figure 1: